

# CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

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UFOCON ONE, as everyone is aware, was a tremendous success, with many ideas being tabled, and everyone deciding that it was time for the organisations to work together as a whole, for it is only this way, that we can hope to contribute in possibly finding an answer one day to this mystery. A number of post-conference circulars will be printed and distributed to all the organisations within the next few months, including return circulars to be filled out. These circulars will be printed and sent from Adelaide by UFO Research - South Australia, and we ask your co-operation in filling the return circular out as soon as possible, and returning them, so that there is no waiting time for any late returns.

As discussed at the conference, UFOCON TWO will be held in Mount Gambier South Australia in October 1976, to co-incide with a total solar eclipse. We hope (do not however promise) that Professor Hynek will be out here for the occasion, to chair the conference.

David Buching, who is the Research Director of UFOIC, mentioned and showed the use of the Panatone Colour System. These are available from UFOIC, P.O. Box 6 Lane Cove N.S.W. 2066, for \$1.50. Also at the conference, ACOS presented the Physical Trace Catalogue, which was brought out by the Center for UFO Studies, and which was compiled by Ted Phillips. Enquiries have been made with Professor Hynek as to whether further copies may be purchased. However, should any organisation wish to borrow this catalogue, please write to us, and we shall forward it. At the moment, one organisation has a loan of it, but a reservation list will be made up, according for requests of borrowing this catalogue.

We also apologise for the delay in this Bulletin, but that was due to the conference.

H. Griesberg.  
D. Seargent.  
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Patterns in U.F.O. Reports,

Researchers of the UFO problem have long recognized the desirability of determining some type of pattern in the mass of sightings reports. If any such pattern could be shown to exist, the next step would be to show why it exists and this in turn may take us that much closer to understanding what UFO's really are and what is the mechanism (be it physical, paranormal or psychological) responsible for the generation of UFO reports.

Certain researchers have, from time to time, announced their discoveries of patterns, mostly in agreement with their own personal beliefs. We need only mention the straight line mystery or the Cathie grid system to serve as examples. Unfortunately, these patterns are usually found to be spurious upon further examination. It is a well known fact that complete randomness is well-nigh as remote as the alchemists dream - any series of positions or events will have various "patterns" running through it, as can be easily demonstrated by simply making a large number of dots on a piece of paper and having someone join them together in a pattern. Straight lines, grids, triangles and anything else you might name can be constructed in a matter of seconds, from such an apparently "random" scatter (the stellar constellations are another example of "patterns" or "figures" constructed in an apparently random scatter). The "patterns" or "figures" constructed may be of interest to the psychologist, as they may well tell us something about the mind of the person constructing them, but they are useless to the ufologist.

Similarly patterns in time have allegedly been discovered from time to time, usually corresponding to the Lunar Cycle. This last was investigated by myself in a very preliminary manner by graphing UFO reports against a Lunar Cycle divided into days. Two sets of data were used, one a close encounter set direct from Professor Hynek's Physical Trace Catalogue, and the other, a list of 167 reports of various classes of UFO compiled by U.F.O.I.C. of Sydney and Mr. Colin Norris of South Australia, (published in "Australian UFO Review" December 1969). The sightings used from the Hynek list extended from 1967 until early 1969 and, unlike the first, only concerned Australian sightings.

The U.F.O.I.C. list did, indeed, appear to show some type of pattern when graphed against the Lunar Cycle, with high peaks of activity just prior to first quarter and just after last quarter and a noticeable low around full moon and new moon. The Hynek list did not reveal this pattern as clearly, although it remained more or less vaguely suggested (especially if one took pains to look for it.)

Both graphs tended to show peaks and depressions spaced at an average of about six days.

(cont.)



The U.F.O.I.C. list was then graphed according to the date of sighting, i.e., the day of the month, and once again a "pattern" emerged showing a similarly spaced series of peaks and depressions with the additional revelation that the highest peaks occurred late in the month - the highest peak being the 25th, and the widest depression being from the 9th to the 11th, although deeper, sharper depressions occurred on the 3rd, 15th and 21st.

Another graph was then drawn for comparison - this time not on UFO's but of comet discoveries. To compare the graphs, the number of discoveries used was also 167, taken from last century, early this century, the present day and a few from ancient times in order to obtain as near to a random scatter as possible. The resulting graph (against days of the month) did not look unlike the UFO graph - again there were peaks separated by about 4-6 days, with the highest peak on the 22nd and 23rd, another on the 7th and lows on 5th, 10th, 11th, 21st and 29th.

A further graph was drawn against days of the month, this time using 167 comets perihelion times (the point at which a comet passes nearest to the sun). These comets were mainly different to the ones used above, but also represented a scatter of recent objects and ones seen long ago. In ancient times, comets were usually discovered fairly near perihelion (when they are normally bright) but in recent years the tendency has been for them to be found weeks or months on either side of perihelion.

Once again a similarly structured graph emerged, but with peaks on the 8th, and 28th, as well as a slightly lower one on the 17th. The 22nd to 26th represented the low point but other lows occurred on the 29th, 16th and 11th with a fairly depressed period from 3rd to 7th.

The cyclical nature of all these graphs almost certainly means that any "pattern", whether of UFO activity, comet discovery or comet perihelia during the month, or of UFO activity in relation to the Lunar Cycle, is spurious - the supposed cycle being due to the natural clustering of random events rather than any intrinsic pattern in the phenomena themselves.

From these preliminary observations, it would appear that most alleged UFO cycles, such as supposed increased activity at first quarter moon or the John Keel peak at the 24th of the month are simply tricks of random data samples - the clustering of co-incidences that all gamblers know about and that gives rise to the appealing, but unscientific, Law of Seriality (stating that there is a force in Nature bringing like together with like and working against the Laws of Thermodynamics). But I am not a statistician, and much more work will have to be done on this issue before we can draw definite conclusions (local or short term patterns may also need separate treatment.)

D. Seargent.

Subjective vs. Objective Reporting

A difficulty in determining exactly what a witness to a U.F.O. event actually sees is caused by the beliefs of that person. Someone who firmly believes that he has seen a space ship, for instance, will tend to interpret his experience (to himself and to others) as the experience of having seen a space ship, and this will, of course, colour his report.

Compare these two accounts of a single hypothetical sighting:-

1. An orange light was seen at 7.30pm travelling in a westerly direction for about 20 degrees and then in a southerly direction for a further 10 degrees before being lost to sight.
2. An orange luminous craft flew over at 7.30pm in a westerly direction, travelling for about 20 degrees in a straight line before changing course and flying south for another 10 degrees, after which it turned off its lights. (Subjective wording underlined)

Both these say the same thing in the sense that both report the same objective event, but whereas the first reporter has no opinion as to the exact nature of the report stimulus (i.e., it is a genuine U.F.O. for him) the second reporter thinks he has interpretation already (i.e., for him it is not a U.F.O. but an I.F.O. - an identified flying object, in this case a space ship or flying saucer).

Notice

There seemed to be considerable misunderstanding, as was revealed by the conference, as to the type of reports that should be forwarded to ACOS and the Center. The Center uses ALL reports, be they Nocturnal Lights or Close Encounter cases, after having been investigated, defy any explanation, and therefore are classified as UFO reports. The Center is NOT a collection point for GOOD UFO reports, but a study center and every unidentified report is needed, be it a good one or not, for there is every possibility that a usual run-of-the-mill light in the sky which cannot be explained may hold part of the key to unlock the mystery. So folks, send in them reports, no matter how good they are. If you cannot find an explanation, send them to ACOS.

Great Words of Interest

It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence.  
It biases the judgment.

- Sherlock Holmes

A Study in Scarlet.....

Which Way do UFO's Rotate?

A brief glance over the Physical Trace Catalogue revealed that an overwhelming proportion of "nests" where direction of swirl was reported, showed anti-clockwise rotation. Similarly, of the three reports known to us where the witness reported the direction of rotation of a UFO in the air, two are anti-clockwise and one is clockwise. There may be a clue here somewhere and any observations of the direction of rotation will be most welcome and interesting.

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Great Words of Interest

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious - it is the source of all true art and science.

Albert Einstein.

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What is a UFO Expert?

(Reprint from CCUFORB Newsletter July '74)

"Dad", my teenage son asked me, "what is a UFO expert?".  
 "Son", I replied, "a UFO expert is a person who knows everything, or at least he thinks he does, about psychology, biology, astronomy and meteorology. He studies each of these subjects, learning more and more about less and less of each, until he finally is learning everything about nothing, at which point he formulates his theory. After he formulates this, (which he does without first looking at any UFO reports) he goes through all the reports he can find, systematically throwing away everything that doesn't agree with his views, until he is left with just those reports which support his ideas. Then, he writes a book using these reports as evidence and makes a name for himself. Following that method, he can only be right."

"Miasma"

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A request was made at the conference, for ACOS to publish a list, attached to its Bulletin of ALL UFO reports it receives from all over Australia. This indeed was a brilliant suggestion, and we are only too pleased to do this. So, starting with this issue, we will print a summary of all reports received. Since our last Bulletin, we have only received one, but it is a Close Encounter case and attached is a summary of this.



There have been several reports of UFOs in the Narrogin W.A. area in the past month of September. This was brought to UFO Research's W.A. attention through the news media. Mr. S. Briggs and Mr. A. Fiannaca went to Narrogin to carry out investigations into the appearance of mysterious lights in that area, and also investigated a strange depression in an oat field.

On their arrival, they contacted the police station, and received full co-operation from them while trying to locate some of the people who have observed unusual lights.

Several report forms were filled out by a few of the local residents, but some were reluctant to co-operate with Messrs Briggs and Fiannaca. The depression was noticed by the farm's owner, Mr. C., approximately on the 14th September, but he did not see any unusual lights himself, although his wife did.

One report by Mr. V., who went outside on the back porch at 0005 on the 22nd September, while he was outside his attention was drawn to a very bright light in the sky north of his residence. He observed the light for approx. 8 minutes and while observing he noticed one very bright yellow light with two or three smaller and duller lights on both sides of the object, which lights could only be seen occasionally. Mr. V., said at first he thought it was some people with a spotlight, but after further observations he discounted the idea. Later in the week, a few people in town told Mr. V., they had also seen similar lights in the sky.

Mr. E., was ploughing a field on Mr. K's farm in the middle of June this year at 2115, when he noticed a very bright yellowish orange object. It travelled in a straight line at first then stopped. The object travelled E to NW, and approx. 10 degrees from the horizon. Mr. E. observed the object for 1 hour 17 minutes. After stopping, the object moved up and down, left to right. It seemed to be cigar shaped while moving, and dome shaped and blue with a shimmering effect while stationary. It was spinning in a clockwise direction. When the object eventually disappeared from view, it streaked off at a phenomenal speed straight up at an angle of 90 degrees. The weather was clear, no clouds, slight wind.

Mrs. E., whilst on the front verandah of her residence in February at 2300 had her attention attracted by a very bright blinking light. The object was about 47 degrees up from the horizon and in a NNE direction. As Mrs. E., observed the object it moved up and down and left to right. Mrs. E., said while she was observing she felt uncomfortable. It was a bright yellow colour with smaller red lights on the sides. A friend who was with Mrs. E., also observed the object. The sky was clear, slight wind. Duration of observation was approximately 10 minutes.

Investigations are still continuing by UFO Research W.A., with more witnesses to sightings in the area hopefully coming forward, as well as the depression area being photographed and soil and oat samples being analysed. More on this case in next Bulletin.

A.C.O.S.

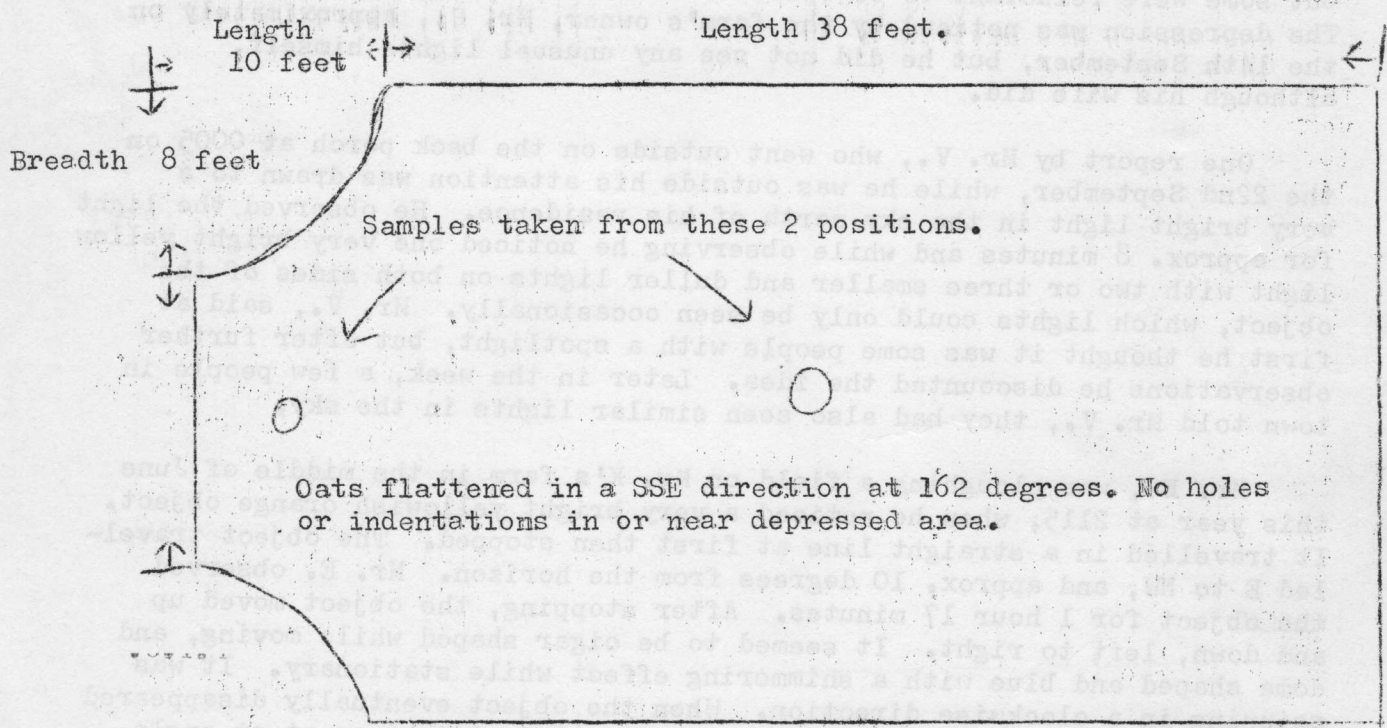
P.T.O.

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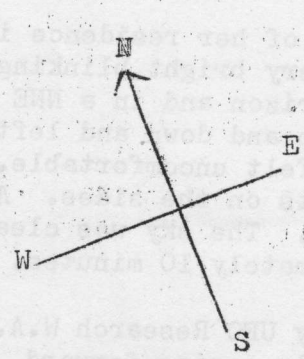
The Narrogin Depression.

Height of Oats outside depression = 4'6"  
On inside Oats depressed to height of 7"

Samples of Oats, roots & soil taken from outside of depression.



Fence 22 feet away from depression.



The earth's magnetic field show no signs of being disturbed in or outside depressed area.